

# News Release

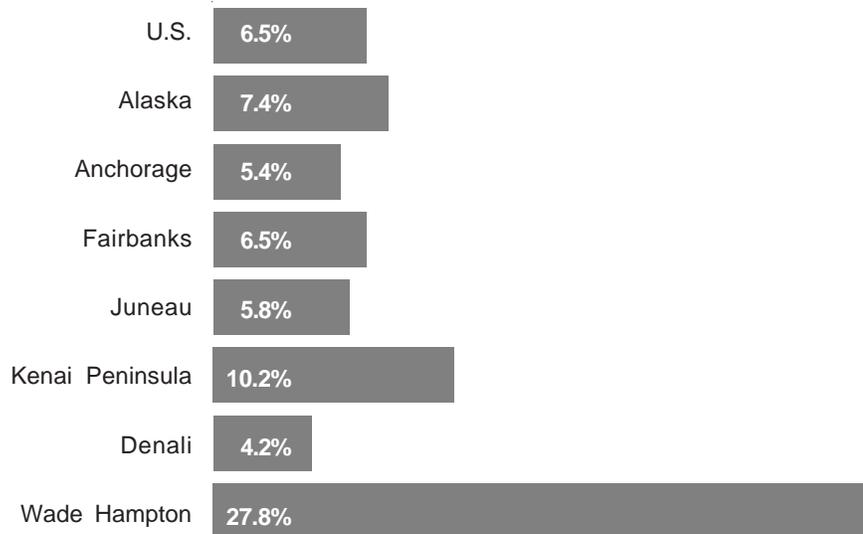
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No. 04-02

## June Unemployment Rises

### June Unemployment for Selected Areas



Source: Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development, Research and Analysis Section  
All rates not seasonally adjusted (Detailed table on reverse)

### Alaska Nonfarm Wage and Salary Employment

	preliminary 06/03	revised 05/03	06/02	Changes from	
				05/03	06/02
Total Nonfarm Employment	311,500	300,800	308,100	10,700	3,400
Natural Resources & Mining	10,200	10,300	11,000	-100	-800
Construction	18,700	16,700	18,200	2,000	500
Manufacturing	11,400	8,800	11,600	2,600	-200
Trade, Transportation, Utilities	64,100	61,400	64,800	2,700	-700
Information	7,200	6,900	7,200	300	0
Financial Activities	14,200	13,600	14,000	600	200
Professional & Business Services	24,700	23,600	24,100	1,100	600
Education & Health Services	32,300	31,900	30,600	400	1,700
Leisure & Hospitality	35,000	30,900	34,000	4,100	1,000
Other Services	12,500	12,600	12,300	-100	200
Government	81,300	84,100	80,300	-2,800	1,000

Government includes employees of public schools, the University of Alaska, and certain federally-recognized tribal entities.  
Benchmark date: March 2002  
Source: Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development, Research and Analysis Section

### Seasonally Adjusted Unemployment Rate

June 2003:	Alaska 7.9%	U.S. 6.4%
May 2003:	Alaska 7.3%	U.S. 6.1%
June 2002:	Alaska 7.8%	U.S. 5.8%

Alaska's unemployment rate rose three-tenths of a percentage point in June to 7.4 percent, according to Dan Robinson, a labor economist with the Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development. The comparable national rate rose seven-tenths of a percentage point to 6.5 percent.

For the last two years Alaska's unemployment rate has increased slightly in June, although the changes have been small enough to be within the statistical range of error. To the extent the changes reflect real economic events, it suggests that the weak national economy may be affecting Alaska. The national job market appears to be luring fewer Alaskans out of state and perhaps causing some job seekers to migrate to Alaska, since it is one of the few states with consistent job growth over the last few years.

The state's employment growth has continued through the first half of 2003. Total June wage and salary employment was up an estimated 3,400 jobs over June 2002 for a growth rate of 1.1 percent. Health care has led the way, adding 1,600 jobs over that period. Construction has also shown healthy growth over the year, as have the eating and drinking industries. Government has grown at about the same rate as the total workforce and is up an estimated 1,000 jobs over the year.

From May to June the state followed its expected seasonal pattern and added an estimated 10,700 wage and salary jobs, more than half of them in leisure and hospitality industries (hotels, restaurants, etc.) and in retail trade. Construction, seafood processing, and air transportation also added a significant number of jobs in June. Government employment was down an estimated 2,800 jobs as schools and universities began their summer break.

Anchorage, Fairbanks and Juneau all saw higher unemployment rates in June, mirroring the statewide pattern. The Denali Borough had the state's lowest unemployment rate at 4.2 percent. The Wade Hampton Census Area was the high with a rate of 27.8 percent.

URL Address: <http://almis.labor.state.ak.us>

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## Labor Force by Region and Census Area

	Labor Force			Unemployment			Rate			Employment		
	06/03	05/03	06/02	06/03	05/03	06/02	06/03	05/03	06/02	06/03	05/03	06/02
Alaska Statewide	353,541	342,769	330,284	26,313	24,249	24,351	7.4	7.1	7.4	327,228	318,520	305,933
Anchorage/Mat-Su Region	193,856	189,042	178,600	11,544	10,525	10,359	6.0	5.6	5.8	182,312	178,517	168,241
Municipality of Anchorage	156,308	153,165	145,542	8,399	7,711	7,563	5.4	5.0	5.2	147,909	145,454	137,979
Mat-Su Borough	37,548	35,877	33,058	3,145	2,814	2,796	8.4	7.8	8.5	34,403	33,063	30,262
Gulf Coast Region	36,995	34,912	35,645	3,655	3,583	3,921	9.9	10.3	11.0	33,340	31,329	31,724
Kenai Peninsula Borough	24,231	22,689	22,863	2,476	2,246	2,162	10.2	9.9	9.5	21,755	20,443	20,701
Kodiak Island Borough	7,357	7,113	7,654	739	895	1,357	10.0	12.6	17.7	6,618	6,218	6,297
Valdez-Cordova CA	5,407	5,109	5,128	440	442	402	8.1	8.7	7.8	4,967	4,667	4,726
Interior Region	55,486	54,589	51,948	3,888	3,612	3,541	7.0	6.6	6.8	51,598	50,977	48,407
Denali Borough	1,255	1,258	1,182	53	70	54	4.2	5.6	4.6	1,202	1,188	1,128
Fairbanks North Star Bor.	48,928	47,982	45,749	3,187	2,792	2,837	6.5	5.8	6.2	45,741	45,190	42,912
Southeast Fairbanks CA	2,791	2,799	2,648	254	293	268	9.1	10.5	10.1	2,537	2,506	2,380
Yukon-Koyukuk CA	2,512	2,550	2,368	394	457	381	15.7	17.9	16.1	2,118	2,093	1,987
Northern Region	9,282	9,328	8,910	1,643	1,444	1,406	17.7	15.5	15.8	7,639	7,884	7,504
Nome Census Area	3,415	3,429	3,279	574	497	488	16.8	14.5	14.9	2,841	2,932	2,791
North Slope Borough	3,387	3,411	3,258	495	427	417	14.6	12.5	12.8	2,892	2,984	2,841
Northwest Arctic Borough	2,480	2,488	2,374	574	520	501	23.1	20.9	21.1	1,906	1,968	1,873
Southeast Region	41,254	39,193	39,720	2,925	2,711	2,849	7.1	6.9	7.2	38,329	36,482	36,871
Haines Borough	1,286	1,250	1,238	101	122	98	7.9	9.8	7.9	1,185	1,128	1,140
Juneau Borough	18,311	17,324	17,541	1,060	904	946	5.8	5.2	5.4	17,251	16,420	16,595
Ketchikan Gateway Borough	7,849	7,435	7,592	633	567	650	8.1	7.6	8.6	7,216	6,868	6,942
Pr. of Wales-Outer Ketchikan	2,871	2,751	2,840	321	324	387	11.2	11.8	13.6	2,550	2,427	2,453
Sitka Borough	4,839	4,556	4,648	281	218	263	5.8	4.8	5.7	4,558	4,338	4,385
Skagway-Hoonah-Angoon CA	2,134	2,050	2,074	145	157	161	6.8	7.7	7.8	1,989	1,893	1,913
Wrangell-Petersburg CA	3,617	3,483	3,457	333	357	298	9.2	10.2	8.6	3,284	3,126	3,159
Yakutat Borough	349	346	332	52	63	46	14.9	18.2	13.9	297	283	286
Southwest Region	16,668	15,705	15,461	2,658	2,375	2,275	15.9	15.1	14.7	14,010	13,330	13,186
Aleutians East Borough	1,756	1,680	1,638	83	88	63	4.7	5.2	3.8	1,673	1,592	1,575
Aleutians West Census Area	2,802	2,675	2,616	361	352	318	12.9	13.2	12.2	2,441	2,323	2,298
Bethel Census Area	6,586	6,205	6,068	1,155	1,037	956	17.5	16.7	15.8	5,431	5,168	5,112
Bristol Bay Borough	542	505	495	62	48	43	11.4	9.5	8.7	480	457	452
Dillingham Census Area	1,930	1,841	1,791	234	227	195	12.1	12.3	10.9	1,696	1,614	1,596
Lake & Peninsula Borough	583	568	556	77	87	80	13.2	15.3	14.4	506	481	476
Wade Hampton CA	2,469	2,233	2,298	686	537	620	27.8	24.0	27.0	1,783	1,696	1,678

Benchmark: March 2002

Source: Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development, Research and Analysis Section.

• Comparisons between different time periods are not as

meaningful as other time series produced by Research and Analysis. • The official definition of unemployment currently in place excludes anyone who has not made an active attempt to find work in the four-week period up to and including the week that includes the 12th of the reference month. Due to the scarcity of employment opportunities in rural Alaska locations, many individuals do not meet the official definition of unemployed because they have not conducted an active job search. These individuals are considered not in the labor force.